



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

## Meeting Minutes

### Town Council Committee of the Whole

45 Fort Hill Road  
Groton, CT 06340-4394  
Town Clerk 860-441-6640  
Town Manager  
860-441-6630

**Mayor James L. Streeter, Councilors Bruce S. Flax, Bill Johnson, Catherine Kolnaski, Deborah B. Monteiro, Frank O'Beirne, Jr., Deborah L. Peruzzotti, Paulann H. Sheets, and Harry A. Watson**

**Wednesday, January 6, 2010**

**7:30 PM**

**Groton Long Point - Dodd Room**

#### **SPECIAL MEETING - JOINT MEETING WITH GROTON LONG POINT ASSOCIATION**

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

*Mayor Streeter called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and introductions of Town Councilors and Groton Long Point Board members were made.*

#### **2. ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Mayor Streeter, Councilor Flax, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Watson

Members Absent: Councilor Johnson, Councilor Monteiro and Councilor Sheets

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger and Executive Assistant Nicki Bresnayan.*

*Groton Long Point Board of Directors: Bob Congdon, Ann Marie Lafayette, Joan Pulver, John Tuohy, Lance Walker, Jon Fuller, Rich Moravsk, and Louise Fisher.*

#### **3. NEW BUSINESS**

##### **2009-0029 Joint Meeting with Groton Long Point Board of Directors (2009 Standing Referral)**

**Discussed**

*See 1/6/10 Committee of the Whole discussion under #2009-0248 FYE 2011 Budget.*

##### **2009-0248 FYE 2011 Budget**

**Discussed**

- Groton Long Point Highway Budget
- Groton Long Point Police Budget
- Beach Road Bridge Replacement

*Bob Congdon explained that the primary topics for discussion are the FYE 2011 Budget and the Beach Road bridge. He noted that an information packet on Groton Long Point was provided to Town Councilors. Mayor Streeter noted that the Town Council Committee of the Whole has had preliminary discussions on the budget.*

*Town Manager Oefinger provided an overview, noting that the 2011 budget will be very difficult. The Council has given the Town Manager and the Board of Education guidance to come in with a zero dollar budget, but the Town will be fortunate if it can afford a zero dollar budget. Revenue from the state is up in the air for this year and next year.*

*Councilor Johnson arrived at 7:32 p.m.*

**Roll Call:** Members Present: Mayor Streeter, Councilor Flax, Councilor Johnson, Councilor Kolnaski, Councilor O'Beirne, Jr., Councilor Peruzzotti and Councilor Watson  
Members Absent: Councilor Monteiro and Councilor Sheets

**Discussed**

*The Town Manager explained that the Town is starting the process having to cover \$2 million in budget increases. If the revenue picture does not improve, the Town will have to cut people. There are no open positions or opportunities for reorganization within the Town as there has been*

*in past years. This means that there needs to be a discussion/prioritization of the various services that the Town has provided over the years at the request of its residents.*

*The Town Manager noted that all road improvements in the Town, City and Groton Long Point will be included in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), including the Beach Road bridge.*

*Rich Moravsik provided an update on the Beach Road bridge project. Based on a report received in November, the Board took action to close the bridge to commercial traffic and cover it with steel plating that was funded out of contingency. DEP is currently reviewing the project, which Mr. Moravsik described as "bare bones." He noted that the granite façade shown on the plans will not be included in the contract, but can be added later on. The project cost has been estimated at \$472,000, but Mr. Moravsik stated he would provide an updated figure by the end of the month. A formal application has been made to DEP, but Mr. Moravsik was unsure if an application has been made to the Corps of Engineers.*

*After Mr. Moravsik provided a brief history of the bridge, Town Manager Oefinger indicated that 30 years is a short life span for a box culvert bridge and he suggested that Groton Long Point's engineer analyze why the failure occurred so that it does not happen again. Mr. Moravsik indicated that the bridge would last a long time as it is now, but the steel plating is not aesthetically acceptable to the community. Mayor Streeter suggested that information may be important if the Council is forced into cost avoidance discussions. Mr. Moravsik described the water line crossing that is part of the project and the Town Manager noted that the cost for the water line needs to be separated from the road project for CIP purposes.*

*With respect to Groton Long Point's highway budget, Mr. Moravsik noted that all capital improvements have been removed and will be included in the CIP. He reviewed some of the line items and noted that a sum has been included to bid on a Town vehicle at auction. The Town Manager suggested that Mr. Moravsik contact the Town regarding transferring a surplus vehicle if one is available rather than waiting for the auction. Discussion followed on catch basin cleaning and Gary Schneider, Director of Public Works, explained the process, noting that the Town does not have the capacity or the personnel to service Groton Long Point's catch basins.*

*With respect to the Groton Long Point police budget, Mr. Congdon stated that it is the Board's goal to keep the request the same as last year's request. The Town Manager provided a history on why the Town funds one-third of Groton Long Point's police budget (approximately \$200,000). Councilor Flax noted an opportunity for Groton Long Point residents to use some of the money spent on extra police services to fund some of the projects in Groton Long Point. Although Groton Long Point residents have the opportunity to vote on Groton Long Point's budget, the Town Manager suggested that is not the same as having a discussion about how the money is spent. He noted the opportunity that has been created with the vacancy of the Police Chief's position to look at things differently.*

#### **4. ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting adjourned by consensus at 8:06 p.m.*